

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (ORIGINAL) A method of producing a protein degradation product, comprising:
treating a protein with a protease in the presence of a sulfonic acid compound.
2. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein the protein is treated with the protease in the presence of the sulfonic acid compound and a nitro compound.
3. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sulfonic acid compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium lauryl sulfate, dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid sodium salt, lithium lauryl sulfate, 4-aminoazobenzene-4'-sulfonic acid sodium salt, 4-amino-4'-nitrostilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid disodium salt, 4,4'-diazidostilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid disodium salt, N-cyclohexyl-2-aminoethane sulfonic acid, N-cyclohexyl-3-aminopropane sulfonic acid, N-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxy-3-aminopropane sulfonic acid, piperazine-1,4-bis(2-ethane sulfonic acid) and bathophenanthroline sulfonic acid.
4. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 2, wherein the nitro compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of 2,4-dinitrophenol, 2,5-dinitrophenyl, 2,6-dinitrophenyl, 4,6-dinitro-2-methyl phenol, 2-amino-4-nitrophenol, 2-amino-5-nitrophenol, 2-amino-4-nitrophenol, p-nitrophenol, 2,4-dinitroaniline, p-nitroaniline, sodium nitrite, potassium nitrite, 4-Amino-4'-nitrostilbene-2,2'-disulfonic Acid Disodium Salt and nitrobenzene.
5. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein the protease is metalloproteinase.
6. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein the protein is a glycosylated protein.

7. (ORIGINAL) A method of measuring a glycated protein, in which an amount of the glycated protein is determined by treating a sample containing the glycated protein with a protease so as to degrade the glycated protein, allowing a glycated portion of a glycated protein degradation product obtained by the degradation and a fructosyl amino acid oxidase to react with each other, and measuring this redox reaction, the method comprising:

carrying out the protease treatment in the presence of a sulfonic acid compound.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 7, wherein the protease treatment is carried out in the presence of the sulfonic acid compound and a nitro compound.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 7, wherein the sulfonic acid compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium lauryl sulfate, dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid sodium salt, lithium lauryl sulfate, 4-aminoazobenzene-4'-sulfonic acid sodium salt, 4-amino-4'-nitrostilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid disodium salt, 4,4'-diazidostilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid disodium salt, N-cyclohexyl-2-aminoethane sulfonic acid, N-cyclohexyl-3-aminopropane sulfonic acid, N-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxy-3-aminopropane sulfonic acid, piperazine-1,4-bis(2-ethane sulfonic acid) and bathophenanthroline sulfonic acid.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim ^{[[7]]} 8, wherein the nitro compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of 2,4-dinitrophenol, 2,5-dinitrophenyl, 2,6-dinitrophenyl, 4,6-dinitro-2-methyl phenol, 2-amino-4-nitrophenol, 2-amino-5-nitrophenol, 2-amino-4-nitrophenol, p-nitrophenol, 2,4-dinitroaniline, p-nitroaniline, sodium nitrite, potassium nitrite, 4-Amino-4'-nitrostilbene-2,2'-disulfonic Acid Disodium Salt and nitrobenzene.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 7, wherein the protease is metalloproteinase.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 7, wherein the redox reaction is measured by determining an amount of hydrogen peroxide generated by the reaction of the glycated portion of the glycated protein degradation product and the fructosyl amino acid oxidase.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 12, wherein the amount of the hydrogen peroxide is determined by using an oxidase to reduce the generated hydrogen peroxide and oxidize a substrate that develops color by oxidation and measuring a degree of the color that the substrate has developed.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 13, wherein the degree of the color is measured by measuring an absorbance at a wavelength for detecting the substrate.